

**[0037]** What is claimed is:

1. A coupling comprising:

a fitting having a barrel, an externally threaded first nipple, and a second nipple, the first nipple protruding away from the barrel in a first direction, the second nipple protruding away from the barrel in a second direction, the barrel having an external surface that is structured to be engaged by a tool, the barrel including an annular shelf disposed adjacent the external surface, the barrel having a groove formed therein adjacent the shelf, the groove having an engagement surface that is undercut below the shelf and that is of a first frusto-conic shape that faces generally radially inwardly;

a nut including an internally threaded collar and a plurality of elongated fingers extending from the collar, the collar having an outer surface that is structured to be engaged by a tool, each finger including a deflectable bar and a projection, the projections each including a first surface and a second surface, the first surface extending generally radially outwardly from the bar and being oriented generally perpendicular to the longitudinal extent of the bar, the second surface being of a second frusto-conic shape and facing generally radially outwardly, the first and second surfaces meeting at an edge;

the first nipple and the collar being structured to be threadably connected together;

the engagement surface having a vertex spaced from the barrel in the first direction;

the second surface having a vertex spaced from the barrel in the second direction; and

the bars being structured to be elastically deflected inwardly from a free state and the edges being structured to be frictionally engaged with the engagement surface when the coupling is assembled.

2. The coupling of Claim 1 wherein

the nut includes a ferrule having a tube portion and an outwardly protruding flange;

the collar including an internal stop member; and

the flange being structured to be engaged with the stop member.

3. The coupling of Claim 2 wherein

the stop member is a thrust wire disposed internally on the collar.

4. The coupling of Claim 2 wherein

the first nipple includes an exterior frusto-conic seal surface;  
the ferrule including an interior frusto-conic seal surface; and  
the exterior and interior seal surfaces being sealingly engaged with one another.

5. The coupling of Claim 1 wherein

the bars are structured to be continuously and progressively elastically deflected inwardly when the coupling is moved in an unthreading direction from an assembled condition.